

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A mobile communication system comprising:

~~a mobile station;~~

a base station disposed in each of service areas for performing radio communication with ~~the a~~ mobile station positioned in ~~each~~ any of said service areas;

AI a base station controller having channel station data indicative of whether there is a channel between a mobile switching center as a master station thereof and another mobile switching center, said base station controller having means for, when a hand-off control process is to be performed via said mobile switching center as the master station while communication with said mobile ~~terminal~~ station through said base station, determining whether or not, based on said channel station data, said mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to the other mobile switching center ~~or not based on said channel station data~~, and, if said mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to the other mobile switching center, requesting a hand-off control process as a process for switching communication channels for communication with said mobile station; and

a mobile switching center as the master station of said base station controller, for performing a hand-off control process between itself and said other mobile switching center when said hand-off control process is requested.

2. (Currently amended) A mobile communication system comprising:

~~a mobile station;~~

one or more base stations disposed in each of service areas for performing radio communication with ~~the a~~ mobile station positioned in ~~each~~ any of said service areas;

one or more base station controllers serving as a master station of said one or more base stations and having channel station data indicative of whether there is a channel between a mobile switching center as a master station thereof and another system mobile switching center in another system of different specifications, said one or more base station controllers having means for, when a hand-off control process is to be performed via said mobile switching center as the master station while communicating with said mobile ~~terminal~~

station through said base station during an inter-base-station-controller soft hand-off control process, determining whether or not, based on said channel station data, said mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to the other system mobile switching center ~~or not based on said channel station data~~, and, if said mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to the other system mobile switching center, requesting an inter-system hand-off control process as a process for switching communication channels between said mobile station and said other system mobile switching center to said mobile switching center as the master station, and, if said mobile switching center as the master station does not have a channel connected to the other system mobile switching center, requesting an intra-system hand-off control process between said mobile station and the mobile switching center in a home system; and

A) one or more interconnected mobile switching centers serving as a master station of at least one of said one or more base station controllers, for performing said hand-off control process in a home system when the intra-system hand-off control process is requested, at least one of said one or more interconnected mobile switching centers having a communication channel connected to the other system mobile switching center, for performing a predetermined hand-off control process between itself and said other system mobile switching center when said inter-system hand-off control process is requested.

3. (Original) A mobile communication system according to claim 2, further comprising a communication channel between only a mobile switching center adjacent to a service area of the other system including an overlay and said other system mobile switching center.
4. (Original) A mobile communication system according to claim 3, wherein said mobile switching center comprises means for, when said intra-system hand-off control process is requested, selecting a mobile switching center in the home system which has a communication channel connected to said other system mobile switching center, and performing a hand-off control process between itself and the selected mobile switching center.
5. (Original) A mobile communication system according to claim 2, wherein said home system comprises a mobile communication system according to code division multiple access

principles.

6. (Original) A mobile communication system according to claim 3, wherein said home system comprises a mobile communication system according to code division multiple access principles.

7. (Original) A mobile communication system according to claim 4, wherein said home system comprises a mobile communication system according to code division multiple access principles.

8. (New) A base station controller in a mobile communication system, said base station controller comprising:

A | an interconnection to a first mobile switching center, said interconnection having channel station data indicative of whether there is a channel between said first mobile switching center as a master station thereof and a second mobile switching center; and

 a control module for, when a hand-off control process is to be performed via said first mobile switching center as the master station while communication with a mobile station through a base station controlled by said base station controller, determining whether said first mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to said second mobile switching center or not, based on said channel station data.

9. (New) The base station controller of claim 8, wherein, if said first mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to said second mobile switching center, said control module further requests a hand-off control process as a process for switching communication channels for communication with said mobile station.

10. (New) A method of communicating with a mobile station, said method comprising:

 providing a base station controller in a mobile communication system wherein a mobile station is located, said base station controller having an interconnection to a first mobile switching center, said interconnection having channel station data indicative of whether there is a channel between said first mobile switching center as a master station thereof and a second

mobile switching center; and

determining, based on said channel station data, when a hand-off control process is to be performed via said first mobile switching center as the master station while communication with a mobile station through a base station controlled by said base station controller, whether or not said first mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to said second mobile switching center.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

AI if said first mobile switching center as the master station has a channel connected to said second mobile switching center, requesting a hand-off control process as a process for switching communication channels for communication with said mobile station.

12. (New) The mobile communication system of claim 1, wherein said master station comprises a home system for a mobile station, and said channel between said master station and said another mobile switching center comprises an interconnection to exchange information of mobile stations between mobile switching centers.

13. (New) The mobile communication system of claim 12, wherein said home master station loses a control of a mobile station whenever said mobile station moves to said another mobile switching center.

14. (New) The mobile communication system of claim 13, wherein said interconnection to exchange information of mobile stations between mobile switching centers is used to maintain the communication of a mobile station after a hand-off is made.

15. (New) The mobile communication system of claim 2, wherein said master station comprises a home system for a mobile station, and said channel between said master station and said another mobile switching center comprises an interconnection to exchange information of mobile stations between mobile switching centers.

16. (New) The mobile communication system of claim 15, wherein said home master station loses a control of a mobile station whenever said mobile station moves to said another mobile switching center.

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17. (New) The mobile communication system of claim 16, wherein said interconnection to exchange information of mobile stations between mobile switching centers is used to maintain the communication of a mobile station after a hand-off is made.
